FAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Writ petitions and industrial disputes pending against Air India

1252. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Writ Petitions and Industrial Disputes filed/raised by employees of Air India during the last five years; and

(b) how does this figure compare with Indian Airlines, Vayudoot, Pawan Hans Ltd. and the I.A.A.I. ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) During the period 1985-90, 113 industrial disputes have been raised by employees of Air India and 86 writ petitions have been filed.

(b) The number of employees, sphere of operations and the service conditions of these organisations are different from those of Air India. Therefore, there cannot be any meaningful comparison in this regard.

Upgradation of Trivandrum Airport to International Standard

1253. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Trivandrum Airport to International standard in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) The existing facilites at Trivandrum airport are already of international standard.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Airports and Air facilities during Eighth Plan Period

1254. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the proposed investment on development of airports and air facilities during the Eighth Plan Period;

(b) what is the time schedule for introduction of Global positioning System (GPS) and Microwave Landing Systems; and

(c) whether there is any plan to introduce the system of computerised photo identification of passengers for immigration control ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Rs. 675.00 crores.

(b) The Global Position System for civil aircraft operations is still at experimental stage and has not been certified for air traffic control purposes by the International Civil Aviation Organisation. While the ICAO had originally set that after 1988, Micro-wave Landing System (MLS) be installed, atleast at international airports, a firm decision in so far as the transition date, has not been taken so far.

(c) Although member countries have passed a resolution under the aegis of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for the adoption of a machine readable passport/ machine, readable visa, the technology is still under trial.